

JAMAICA

NEWS



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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends:

It is that wonderful time of year again—Christmas—when the macca and poinsettia trees blossom, cool breeze blows from the hillside, housewives prepare the batter for the Christmas pudding, 'draw' the sorrel and ginger beer for this Special Season.

In Kingston the place is abuzz with activities — Gran' market, Jonkanoo, children blowing fee-fee, balloons, pretty lights and the shops blaring music in an effort to attract the weary shopper.

However, Christmas is never complete without family and friends. That is why many Jamaicans look forward to coming home at this time of year.

If for some reason or the other you cannot come home to the "rock," be of good cheer.

Always keep the spirit of Christmas alive in your hearts by reflecting on the miraculous birth of Christ.

During this Seaseon, relax and savour this issue of Jamaica News.

Merry Christmas, a Happy and Wonderful New Year — the last for this century.

See you in 2000, Walk Good!

CARICOM LINKS

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) takes effect on the dawn of the year 2000. The Rt Hon. P.J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, made a presentation to Parliament on October 19 entitled "The Caribbean Single Market: A Concept of Togetherness". Below are excerpts from the Prime Minister's address.

The objective of the CSME is to develop the individual markets of the region into a single economic space. This will provide not only for the free movement of goods, but also for the free movement of services and freedom for enterprises in any Member State to establish an enterprise in others. The right of establishment will allow the free movement of capital and of labour, in practice of managerial, supervisory and professional personnel.

We are still light years away from considering when it will be feasible and sufficiently consistent with the mutual interests of all Member States to introduce monetary union and a common currency. Some progress has been made in movings towards convergence in monetary and fiscal indicators, but we are simply not ready to move further without making greater progress in improving throughout the region, our balance of payments and our fiscal situation.

More fundamentally, regional integration arrangements have now evolved as mechanisms for what is described as "open regionalism" whereby they are used as stepping stones towards the fuller integration of partner countries into the global economy.

"It is our shared experience in

Jamaica and other CARICOM countries, that the extra-regional partnerships which we are trying to develop are made more attractive to our potential partners when we present ourselves as a unified grouping of Fourteen States, as against individual States.

CARICOM has received recognition and acceptance in all the fora in which we are working and



this Government is determined to give Jamaica more and more, a strong footing in the arena of international trade and investments.

In order to realise these exciting opportunities, a number of things will be done at home. The most important is a determined drive to increase our international competitiveness. This involves a supportive macro-economic environment, sustained efforts to promote innovation and product development, increase productivity and efficiency and cut costs throughout the economy. Each and every sector, industry and activity has to contribute to these urgent and indispensable efforts. ■

Cover photo courtesy of Michael Gordon© 1999

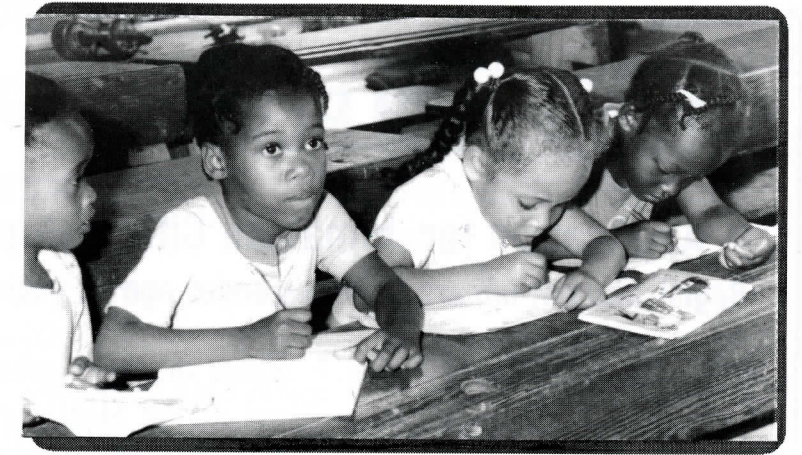
Tourism Education in Basic Schools

For hundreds of children between the ages of 3–6 years in the 1,700 infant and basic schools in Jamaica, there was a change in their usual lessons with the introduction of tourism concepts in the school curriculum.

The method of interweaving this new subject into the teaching of existing subjects is called the "infusion process". The aim of the programme is to educate the student population about the importance of tourism and its role in their lives so that they may develop an informed opinion and a positive attitude about tourism.

The first four levels of the education system from early childhood, Primary grades 1–6 and Secondary grades 7–9, will be exposed to this infusion process, which means that the student from early childhood to secondary school, will be exposed to eleven years of tourism education.

The project is a collaborative effort of the Jamaica Tourist Board and the Ministry of Edu-

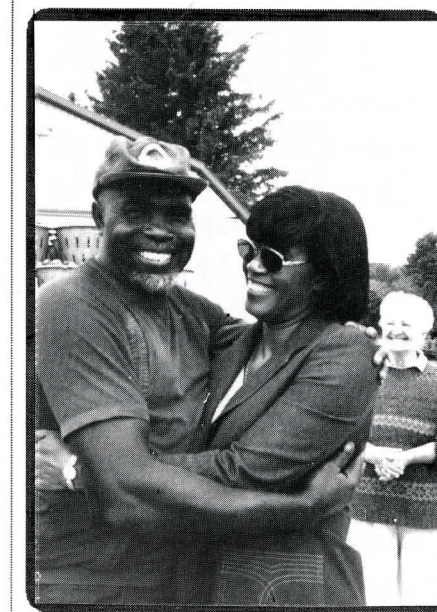


cation and Culture. The infusion method was adopted because tourism runs through every area of Jamaican life. Through this infusion process, students will be asked to consider how beaches are formed, describe the economic benefits of beaches and illustrate the need for their protection. In doing this, teachers will be able

to bring out the importance of protecting and maintaining the environment, not just for tourism, but for the benefit of all Jamaica.

Work material prepared for schools includes students' activity books, teachers' guides, supporting posters, maps and charts. These have been distributed to schools island-wide.

Farm worker praised for 30 years of service



tly paid tribute to a 30-year veteran, Larkland Pearce of Moore Town, Portland. At the age of 21 Mr Pearce made his first visit to the Magalas Farm in Ontario, Canada.

In her tribute, the Minister emphasized that it was Mr Pearce's attitude to work, behaviour and service to his employer, that paved the way for the younger workers.

Tribute was also paid to Helen Magalas who has been employing Jamaican workers since the inception of the programme in 1966.

Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport, Portia Simpson-Miller, recen-



HELPLINE

Application for Jamaican Citizenship Registration of minors (persons under age 18 years)

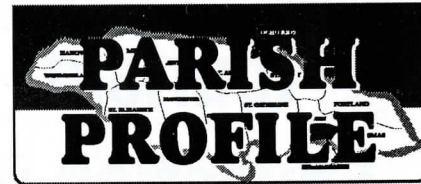
Persons who wish to gain Jamaican Citizenship may do so by applying to the Ministry of National Security and Justice, Mutual Life Building, North Tower, 2 Oxford Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica. Telephone: (876) 906-4929 or (876) 906-4909 - 24.

Procedure

- Application should be made (in duplicate) on Registration Form R4 which is obtainable at the Jamaica Printing Services, 77^{1/2} Duke Street, Kingston.
- The Form should be read carefully, completed and signed in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public or someone authorised to administer Oaths.
- Two references are required to sponsor the application. These persons should be Jamaican by birth and should not be a Civil Servant, a relative, a lawyer or an agent of the applicant.

- These should be submitted at the Ministry of National Security and Justice, accompanied by the following documents:
 - Minor's Birth Certificate
 - Minor's Passport
 - Parents' Passports
 - Parents' Marriage Certificate
 - Evidence of parents' Jamaican nationality
 - Work Permit of parents
 - Tax Compliance Certificate of the applicant
 - Two Passport-sized photographs of minor, certified by a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public or someone authorised to administer oaths.

The cost of registration of minors is J\$2,500.00 which is payable after the application is approved. ■



St Catherine

Jamaica News continues its profile on St Catherine from the previous issue.

After the Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865, Governor Sir John Peter Grant ordered the removal of the capital to Kingston which, with its spectacular harbour and major trade links, had come to be considered "the natural capital of the island". The formal transfer of the capital was effected in 1872. Spanish Town lost much of its life and grandeur after the removal of the capital to Kingston.

In 1867 the number of parishes in Jamaica was reduced from 22 to 14. The boundaries of St Catherine were expanded to incorporate the former parishes of St Dorothy, St John and St Thomas-in-the-Vale.

St Catherine is one of the most stable parishes in the island in terms of industrial development, ranking second only to Kingston. Also recognized as a self-sufficient parish, St Catherine is said to have the greatest agricultural potential in the island, owing to its large fertile basin — stretching from Linstead in the centre, to Guy's Hill in the north. ■

Know your Public Officer

The Custos Rotulorum

The Office of the Custos is an ancient and honourable one. King Richard II issued the Grand Commission for the appointment of Custodes and Justices of the Peace to assist in maintaining law and order in the counties of England.

The title of Custos Rotulorum, is a Latin phrase meaning "Keeper of the Rolls".

He/she is the representative of the Governor-General in the Parish.

The first Custos of Jamaica was Henry Morgan (the Buccaneer Governor of Jamaica) who was Custos Rotulorum of Port Royal under the Earl of Carlisle in 1680.

Below are the functions and responsibilities of the Custodes:

- There shall be a Custos Rotulorum for every parish in Jamaica. The Custos shall be appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister. He shall be a resident

of the parish to which he is appointed.

- A Custos shall hold office during the Governor-General's pleasure and shall vacate office by transferring his/her residence from the parish or retire at the age of 75 years, unless specifically requested to continue in office.
- It is the duty of the Custos, in the absence of the Governor-General, to receive the Sovereign, any member of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister on an official visit, or any important person who arrives in the parish. It is also his/her duty to receive the Governor-General when he pays official visits to the parish.
- In addition, the Custos shall prepare a roster of the Justices of the Peace within the parish so that there is a quorum at each meeting of the Court of Petty Sessions in the various districts.

The Custos is the Chairman of the Parish Committee which

makes recommendations for the appointment of the Justices of the Peace. This recommendation is submitted to the Minister of National Security and Justice.

At each Opening Session of the Circuit Court, the Custos meets with the Presiding Judge.

MOVEMENT



Mrs Gloria Royale Davis, Executive Director of the Jamaica Information Service, said goodbye to the Agency on 1999 September 09. She served for three years which in her words were "challenging, exciting and fulfilling". *Jamaica News* bids farewell to another interesting and dynamic professional woman. We sincerely wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Here & There

NEW YORK

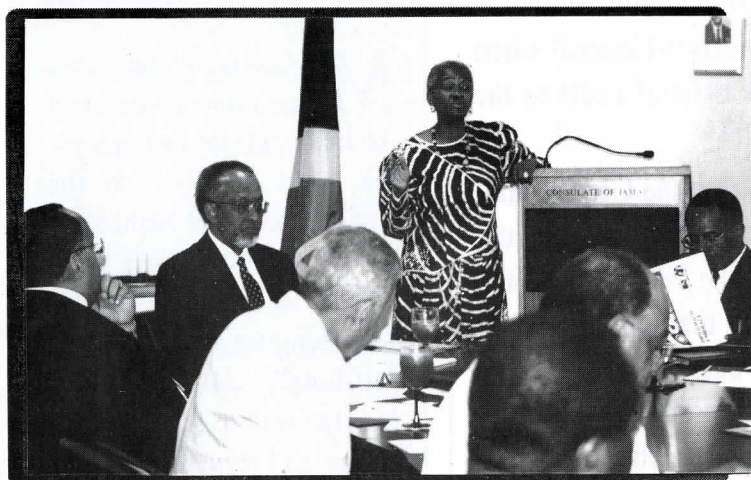


Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon Seymour Mullings (4th left) with (l-r) Mr Derrick Reckord of Grace Kennedy; Dr Basil Bryan, Jamaica's Consul General to New York; Mrs Jean Bryan; Mrs Lilieth Mullings and Her Excellency Patricia Durrant, Jamaica's Ambassador to the United Nations. Minister Mullings was attending the 37th Independence Ball in New York.



Young Saxophonist Kevin Bonfield says thanks and farewell to Consul General, Dr Basil Bryan at the Jamaican Consulate in New York. Kevin was the guest of the Jamaican Consulate during Jamaica's Independence Week's activities and was one of the performing artistes at the stellar gala Independence Ball hosted by the Consulate.

WASHINGTON



Council Woman, Una Clarke, making her presentation at a debriefing meeting of the Caribbean Consular Corps held at the Jamaican Consulate in New York. This session was a follow-up to a July conference in Washington D.C. where Caribbean leaders met with President Clinton's Special Envoy Ambassador Buddy McKay to discuss issues relevant and important to the region.



Secretary General of the Organisation of American State, (OAS), Ambassador Christopher Thomas (l) with Governor-General the Most Hon Sir Howard Cooke, Ambassador Dr Richard Bernal and Mrs Margaret Bernal at Jamaica's Independence celebrations held at the OAS in Washington.

Here & There

ONTARIO

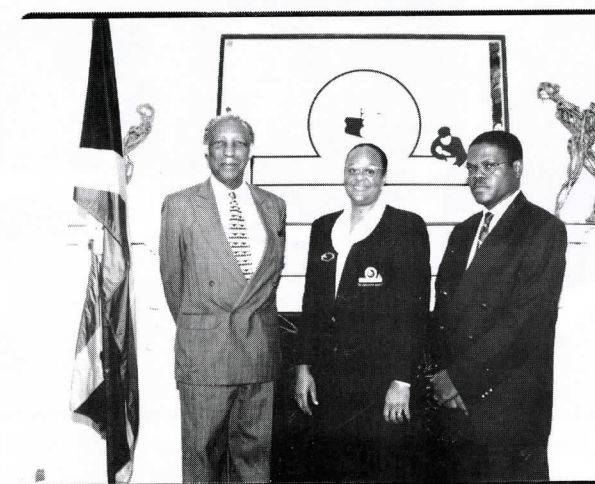


THE MINISTER AND THE MAYOR: Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Art Viola (r), presents Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport in Jamaica, Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller with a historical book on his town. The occasion was a reception hosted by Mr Jim Garrett, Vice-President of Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (FARMS) for the Minister and her delegation on their visit to Canada regarding the Farm Work Programme.



Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport, Hon Portia Simpson-Miller, addressing a group of farm workers at the Magalas Vegetable Farm in Simcoe, Ontario, Canada. The Minister was on her annual tour of Canadian farms as part of the Farm Work Programme. Approximately 5,000 Jamaican workers participate in the programme each year.

LONDON



Registrar General, Dr Patricia Holness (c) poses with Jamaican High Commissioner in London, David Muirhead (l) and Deputy High Commissioner Audley Rodriques in the offices of the High Commission. Dr Holness and a team hosted a series of exhibitions and community meetings throughout the UK, highlighting the operations of the RGD's department.

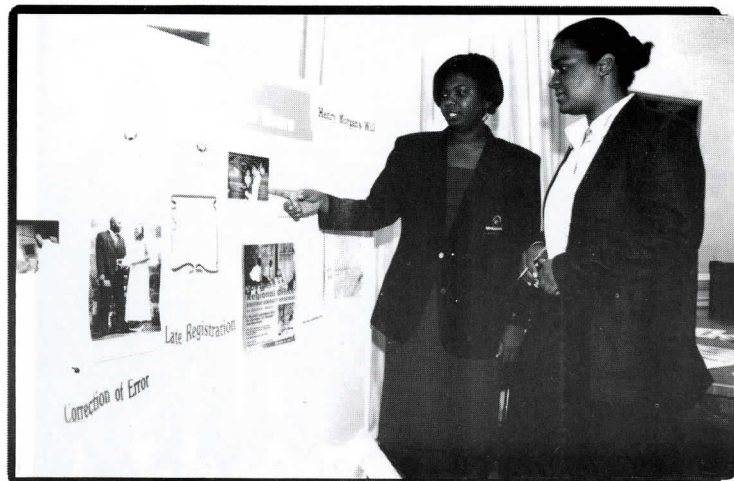
USA



Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Dr Paul Robertson (2nd l), shares a light moment with (l-r) Mark Becker, Executive Vice President of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce; Pat Francis, JAMPRO's President; Stan McLelland, US Ambassador to Jamaica and Carroll Rushing, INDUSA Corporation CEO. Minister Robertson was on an official visit to the USA where he addressed the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce on investment opportunities in Jamaica.

Here & There

LONDON



Mrs Ripley McIntosh (l) Head of Marketing at the Office of the Registrar General points out an item of interest on the display board to Consular Officer, Lisa Bryan at the launch of the Registrar General's tour of the UK.



High Commissioner, David Muirhead congratulates artist and photographer, Cherron Johnson, whose work was displayed during the Independence Reception at the Jamaican High Commission in London on August 6. Miss Johnson, who is of Jamaican parentage and whose exhibition was based around the Jamaican born members of her family, was much acclaimed for her work, examples of which can be seen on the wall behind herself and the High Commissioner.



Mr Winston Carr (2nd l), Chief Executive Officer of the Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation (JDIC), addresses a lively community meeting in Brixton as part of the JDIC Outreach Programme entitled "Protecting Your Money". The meeting was chaired by Jamaican High Commissioner, David Muirhead (3rd l). From (l-r) are Executive Director of the Securities Commission, Earl Melhado; Mrs Rita Humphries-Lewin, Chairperson, Jamaica Stock Exchange and Mr Ralph Lewars the Director of Insurance and Risk Assessment at the JDIC.



Jamaican High Commissioner to London David Muirhead (l) welcomes Minister of Commerce and Technology, Hon Phillip Paulwell to the office of the High Commission. Minister Paulwell was on an official visit to the UK where he met with Jamaicans and highlighted improvements in the areas of communication and information technology.

Here & There

TORONTO



ST MARY'S COLLEGE (ABOVE ROCKS): Director-General of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, Rear Admiral Peter Brady, (2nd r) was Guest Speaker at the recent 10th anniversary fundraising dinner/dance of the St Mary's College Past Students' Association in Toronto. From (l-r) Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Mr Herman LaMont; President of the Alumni Association, Mrs Gloria Rochester-James and one of the original 12 students who attended the school when it opened in the late 50s, Lorna Simms, Editor of Dawn Newspaper.



Newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica, John Robinson (l), prior to taking up his duties in Jamaica, paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Consul General in Toronto, Mr Herman LaMont. Mr Robinson is no stranger to Jamaica, having served as First Secretary and Head of Chancery at the Canadian High Commission from 1975 - 1977.



Jamaica's Chief Justice, Hon Lensley Wolfe (r) was Guest Speaker at the recently held 10th Reunion Banquet of the St Jago Alumni Association held in Toronto. Also in photo are (l-r) Mrs Jean Lyon, President of the St Jago Alumni Association; His Excellency Raymond Wolfe, Jamaica's High Commissioner to Canada and Mrs Sharon Wolfe.



Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Herman LaMont (l) poses with students and teachers from Dupont Primary in Olympic Gardens in Jamaica and their Canadian hosts from St Francis Xavier School in Mississauga. The Jamaican group was on a two week tour of Canada, performing cultural items and learning about the country's culture.

PARISH PROFILE

St Thomas



Location

The parish of St Thomas is situated along the south eastern coast of Jamaica. It is bordered by St Andrew on the west, Portland on the north east and the Caribbean Sea to the south.

Brief History

The parish of St Thomas is supposedly named after Thomas Hickman (Lord Windsor), Governor of Jamaica, 1662.

Originally called St Thomas in the East, the modern day parish of St Thomas was enlarged in 1867, to include the former parish of St David. The first Spanish settlers established cattle ranches at "Morante" (later to be called Morant Bay) and Yallahs.

The history of St Thomas is most popularly associated however,

with the events of 1865 events which led to Jamaica's irascible Assembly being dissolved and the island's status being changed to that of a Crown Colony.

Local leaders in the Parish, Edward Jordan and George William Gordon had been attempting to improve the poor conditions of the newly emancipated slaves, but were repeatedly blocked by the white plantocracy, under the governorship of William Eyre.

Paul Bogle, a local Baptist deacon from Stony Gut, led a group of people to the then capital, Spanish Town, petitioning for an improvement in the people's conditions. However, they had to trudge over forty miles back to Stony Gut, as no official would see them. An infuriated Bogle began to train his followers in the use of

arms, and several disturbances occurred, leading to the issuing of a warrant for his arrest.

A riot in front of the Courthouse on June 11, 1865, which resulted in the killing of seven mob members as well as the Custos, has come to be called the Morant Bay Rebellion. Martial law was declared, and the warship, the "Wolverine" dispatched to Morant Bay from Kingston.

George William Gordon (who had not participated in the uprisings) was illegally taken aboard the warship. After being tried and sentenced to death, he was hanged in front of the court house. Bogle was also hanged on this day, and both bodies thrown into a pit behind the building.

The Morant Bay Rebellion led to a week of killing under the guise of martial law. In time, the Legislature surrendered the Constitution of the island, allowing Jamaica to be brought under Crown Colony government.

As a result of his excessive brutality in the Morant Bay Rebellion, Governor Eyre was relieved of his post and recalled to England. There he was tried, convicted and dismissed from the Service. A striking statue of Paul Bogle stands today before the Morant Bay Courthouse, a lasting testimony to Bogle's fight for freedom.

Continued on page 11

Tax Commissioners appointed

Commissioners have been appointed by the Ministry of Finance and Planning to head three of the island's new tax departments, which will begin operations on December 1, 1999.

The appointments come in the wake of the Government's efforts to restructure and reorganise the country's tax departments, in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the revenue services.

The new departments to which Commissioners were appointed are the Tax Administration Services Department (TASD), the Revenue Protec-

tion Department (RPD) and the Inland Revenue Department.

Delores Tyrell, a certified accountant who worked with the Revenue Board for 17 years, will head the TASD, while Mike Surridge has been appointed Commissioner of the RPD. Mr Surridge headed the former Revenue Protection Division, which has been upgraded to become a department. Norma Dixon has been reappointed Commissioner of the Inland Revenue Department.

The TASD will assume the functions of the Revenue Board, including the

provision of legal services for all the revenue service, publicity and tax payer education services, physical resources and maintenance services and training.

The department will be responsible for the Tax Compliance Certificates (TCC) and the Taxpayer Registration Number (TRN).

The functions of the Inland Revenue Department will be increased to include the responsibilities of the General Consumption Tax (GCT) Department. ■

St Thomas

Continued from page 10

Special attractions and points of interest

Bath Botanical Gardens

Established in 1779 by the Government of Jamaica, this garden is the second oldest in the Western Hemisphere. Many of the plants first brought to Jamaica were introduced here, including the croton, the jacaranda, cinnamon, mango, jackfruit and breadfruit.

Bath Fountain

Discovered by a runaway slave in 1695, the Bath Fountain (or Mineral Spring), was acquired and developed by the Government in 1669. The water is drawn from both hot and cold springs,

and its high mineral content (sulphur and lime) is said to be effective in the treatment of skin diseases, gout and rheumatism.

Brief Profile

Capital

Morant Bay 742.8 km (286.8 sq. miles)

Population

End of 1998 (STATIN)
91,400

Total labour force

40,000
Employed: 32,100
Unemployed: 7,900
(Oct. 1998 STATIN). ■

Holiday Tips

How to take care of that Christmas Tree

Place cut tree in a stand and water daily. Add floral preservatives to lengthen the life of the tree.

In order to plant your tree at the end of the Season, place it in a tub with a burlap bag intact around the root ball and water daily. After Christmas, dig hole twice as large as the root ball, carefully remove the burlap, and then place the tree into hole.

From: Women's Day Magazine 1998

Tit Bits

EDUCATION

New schools for Portmore and Spanish Town

Within the next three years, three new high schools, two primary schools and four new basic schools will become a reality for Spanish Town and Portmore areas.

Contracts will soon be signed for the new schools, which will address the problem of overcrowding in those areas. ■

HOUSING

Reduction in price for land adjoining Hope Gardens

The Government has decided to slash its asking price for lands adjoining Hope Gardens in Kingston, to ensure the viability of a proposed joint venture housing development on the property.

The area known as Hope Estate is now the subject of a development plan to regularise squatting nearest to the Hope Pastures residential area.

The plan is to build on 8.5 hectares, 140 two-bedroom townhouses to be sold for \$3.8 million each; 52 studios selling at \$1.8 million and eight three-bedroom houses at \$4.9 million.

Approval has been given by Cabinet for the reduction from J\$70 million to J\$43 million at a request made by the Developers, Selective Homes Development Limited, who does not foresee the government losing as a result. Total investment in the project is anticipated at J\$300 million. ■

School Feeding Programme beneficiaries to increase

The number of beneficiaries under the Ministry of Education and Culture's School Feeding Programme has been increased for the year 1999/2000. Cooked lunches

will be served to 164,000 students, increasing from 126,000 and snacks of nutribun and milk will be distributed to 250,000 students daily. ■

SECURITY

More to benefit from amendments to the Administrator General's Act

Thousands of people will benefit from recent amendments to the Administrator General's Act of 1873.

The amendments are designed to expedite the process of Application of Letters of Administration and distribution of estates; enable the distribution of estates valuing under J\$100,000 without a grant of Letters of Administration; formally establish a fee structure for certain specialized services and relieve the Administrator General of personal liability for Acts done in faith.

The amendments will empower the Administrator General in the following areas:

- To distribute to beneficiaries, all proceeds in estates which consist solely of personality not exceeding J\$100,000, without having obtained a grant of Letters of Administration. Personality includes money in the bank, proceeds due from insurance policies, stocks and shares and other monetary instruments.
- Before obtaining a grant of Let-

ters of Administration, access funds that belong to the estate to defray costs connected to the application or to assist beneficiaries in dire need.

- Focus on its core function, which involves the Administration of estates on behalf of minors.

Adult beneficiaries of the estates with no minors will now be expected to apply for a grant of Letters of Administration.

The Court may on the application of the Administrator General, vest property of an estate to beneficiaries in cases where they refuse to sign, are missing, or for some other reason the beneficiary is unable to be contacted to sign the Instrument of Transfer. ■

Answers to last issue's RIDDLES & GIGGLES

1. Adam, he came first
2. Survivors can't be buried — they are alive
3. Clock

Tit Bits

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Russia loses Embassy, may gain Honorary Consul

The Government of Jamaica is examining the possibility of appointing an Honorary Consul to Russia following the decision to close Jamaica's Mission in Moscow on October 31, 1999.

The closure forms part of the Government's rationalisation of overseas representation, one of the recommendations of the Orane Report.

The appointment of the Consul is being considered in the light of geopolitical factors and the fact that Jamaican students relied on the support of the Embassy.

In the interim, the Government has made arrangements with the British

Foreign and Commonwealth office in Moscow to provide consular services for Jamaican nationals residing in Russia.

The decision has been taken to assign responsibility for the country's relations with eastern European countries to Jamaica's Embassy in Germany.

The Embassy, currently located in Bonn, is to be relocated to Berlin within six months. According to Minister Without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Senator Maxine Henry Wilson, the relocation will make the embassy more "strategic" in terms of its ability to carry out the services required. ■

TRANSPORT

Applications received for Route Taxi Licence

The Transport Authority has reported that some 14,000 persons have applied for licences to operate route taxis across the island and of that number, 9,000 have been processed.

The route taxi licences in the Corporate Area will be issued under the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited (JUTC) as sub-franchises of the Company. To avoid the direct conflict between the established bus routes and those where route taxis have either been established or serve a better value than the big buses, some of the applicants had to amend

their applications for routes, while others were rejected and advised to re-apply for alternative routes.

The JUTC will have an exclusive licence to provide bus service in the Corporate Area. The Transport Authority will only be responsible for the approval while JUTC will make recommendations.

Other sections of the Corporate Area where small buses and route taxis will be allowed to operate, include the Jones Town and Trench Town communities. ■

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Govt to rationalise non-diplomatic posts

The Government of Jamaica has announced plans to rationalise non-diplomatic posts at its Overseas Missions through the establishment of a Chancery Group, a new category of employees.

This Chancery Group will comprise Public Officers who are to be assigned to overseas posts in non-diplomatic capacities to fill some of the "mission-critical" positions.

The establishment of the Chancery Group will result in savings to the Government.

Emoluments will be rationalised and unlike diplomatic staff who receive various allowances, members of the Chancery Group will be paid a salary comparable to a similar post in Jamaica. ■

A SIMPLE TRICK

With Christmas just around the corner, no doubt people are now preparing their list of packages for shipping abroad. To ensure that the names and addresses on packages do not get smudged by water or other liquid during shipping use these simple tricks. After writing on information on packages use a candle or clear nail polish to rub or paint all over the writing. These methods will protect the address from smudging.

TRANSPORT

Freezone opens in Montego Bay

The first privately owned and operated industrial Free Zone in the English speaking Caribbean Cazoumar Free Zone was recently officially opened at the Montego Bay Freeport in St James.

Built at a cost of some JA\$300 million by Montego Bay business man, Gordon Marzouca, the complex has a space of 60,000 sq. feet, 40,000 of which is already occupied by four information Technology establishments employing 350 workers.

Minister of Industry and Investment, Dr Paul Robertson, congratulated Cazoumar Investments and added that there was a preference among foreign investors for privately developed and managed free zones.

The Minister pointed out that incentives are being offered by the Government of Jamaica to encourage the development of privately owned free zones. These include duty free importation of equipment used in the construction of the free zone, exemption from income tax on profits and duty free importation of raw materials. In addition, there is now a policy in place which encourages single entity free zones.

To date there are 12 companies across the island which have been granted single entity free zone status. These companies operate in the area of manufacturing, warehousing, services and data services. ■

ROADS

Road contracts signed in Westmoreland

Four contracts valued at approximately J\$28 million were signed recently at the offices of the Ministry of Transport and Works in Savanna-la-mar, Westmoreland.

The Contracts, part of a pilot programme which focus on road maintenance, involve the use of private contractors to maintain about 320 kilometres of road in Westmoreland. The programme is being implemented simultaneously in five parishes across the island.

The pilot programme involves 23 contracts in five parishes: four in Westmoreland, five in Manchester, six

in St Catherine, five in St Thomas and three in Portland.

Of the four Westmoreland contracts — the first which covers several roads in Western Westmoreland, will involve 66 kilometres of road at a value of J\$5.3 million. The second will cover Central Westmoreland and involves 97.8 kilometres of road valued at J\$9.6 million.

The third and fourth contracts cover Eastern Westmoreland, involve 82 kilometres and 73 kilometres and cost J\$8 million and J\$4.9 million, respectively. ■

Did You Know?



Poinsettia (Euphorbia pulcherrima) The flower of Christmas Eve

Have you ever wondered about the origins of certain traditions we associate with plants? Here is a short piece on the poinsettia.

The poinsettia is an attractive plant whose leaves turn vivid shades of red in November and December in response to the longer nights.

Known by its beautiful Spanish name of *flor de nochebuena* the poinsettia is indigenous to Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico. The story is told of a poor child on her way to church on Christmas Eve, weeping bitterly because she had no gift to place before the altar of the virgin child. Through her tears an angel suddenly appeared and instructed her to gather the weeds from the roadside. When the child arrived at the altar with her wilted offering, starry crimson blossoms burst forth from every stem. ■

RIDDLES & GIGGLES

1. What can sink a ship but no carry no weight?
Ans: A hole
2. Who does a king take off his crown to?
Ans: The barber
3. Why yuh 'ave to go to bed?
Ans: Because the bed won't come to you.

Recipe Corner

Sorrel Drink

Most Jamaican households use red sorrel at Christmas, although white sorrel is becoming popular. There are many recipes for "drawing" sorrel and nearly all use ginger and cinnamon leaves or spice. Do enjoy this recipe.

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 3lbs | sorrel |
| 1" | root ginger, washed, crushed and blended |
| 12 | whole cloves |
| 5 | pimento leaves, or 4 green dried grains of pimento |
| 6 | cinnamon leaves |
| 6pt | boiling water |
| 1/2 cup | overproof rum |
| 1/2 lb | granulated sugar or sweeten to taste |
| 1 tbsp. | lime juice |
| 1 tbsp. | rice |

Method

- Cut sorrel sepals from seeds and wash well.
- Put sepals in a jar with ginger, cloves, pimento and cinnamon leaves.
- Pour on boiling water, cover with a cloth and set aside for 24 hours.
- A tablespoon of rice can be put in the sorrel to speed up fermentation.
- Strain and sweeten with granulated sugar; add lime juice and rum.
- Bottle and chill.

Tip: frozen sorrel gives better results than dried sorrel — better flavour, better colour.

From: "Real Taste of Jamaica" by Enid Donaldson Mignotte.



THINK ON THESE THINGS

There are four rungs on the ladder of success: **Plan** purposefully, **prepare** prayerfully, **proceed** positively, and **pursue** persistently.

Iyanla Vazant

Those who don't know how to weep with their heart, don't know how to laugh either.

Golda Meir

A man's true wealth is the good he does in the world.

You must act as if it is impossible to fail.

Ashanti Proverb

INTERESTING PLACE NAMES

ACCOMPONG TOWN, a maroon settlement in St Elizabeth, is derived from the Ashanti word, Nyamekopon which means "the lone one" or "warrior". The name was also given to one of the brothers of Captain Cudjoe. The town was established in 1739.

BALACLAVA in St Elizabeth is named after the site of the Crimean War of 1854-6 and in recognition of the fact that a Jamaican nurse, Mary Seacole, was designated the "Florence Nightingale of Jamaica" for her care of soldiers during that war.

ARAWAK in St Ann, received this name from the fact that Arawak Indian remains were found there. A Post Office in the area now bears the name.

Folklore

Here is a peek at some of our Jamaican folklore

- Should you be in the bushes and hear a stick break, leave immediately as it could be a warning from a dead relative that the area is unsafe.
- A sudden gust of warm air is supposed to be a sign that a duppy is present.
- If a woman sews a button on her lover's shirt she must stick him with a pin to prevent the love from cooling off.
- A string of beads as a gift is unlucky, for if it breaks, the love will break.
- A man with a "widows peak" will marry twice.

Duppy is another name for ghost.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS YEAR 2000

The following are the public holidays in Jamaica for the year 2000

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 01

EMANCIPATION DAY

August 01

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 8

INDEPENDENCE DAY

August 07

GOOD FRIDAY

April 21

NATIONAL HEROES' DAY

October 16

EASTER MONDAY

April 24

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25

LABOUR DAY

May 23

BOXING DAY

December 26

BOXING DAY 1999

BOXING DAY will be observed on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 27** in Jamaica.

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